



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
09/352,422	07/12/99	IWATA	SONY-P9799

TM02/0629
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EXAMINER

VO, T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2613

DATE MAILED: 06/29/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/352,422

Applicant(s)

IWATA, EIJI

Examiner

Tung T. Vo

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 May 2001.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- 15) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 16) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 17) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 20) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-19 filed 5-29-01 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 10-13, 17 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Watanabe et al. (US 5,675,331).

Re claims 10 and 17, Watanabe discloses a decoding apparatus (fig. 1) comprises a multiprocessor system (fig. 1) comprising plurality of signal processing devices, each of the signal processing devices comprising:

a master processor (5 of fig. 1) is a variable length decoding means for successively carrying out variable length decoding on variable length coded data blocks (fig. 5), wherein the coded data block is coded by a variable length coder (col. 4, lines 48-50) to obtain fixed length encode data blocks;

a slave processor (6 of fig. 1) is a fixed length decoder for fixed length decoding said fixed length encoded data block, where the fixed length encoded data is encoded by a fixed

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length coder (col. 4, lines 57-60); wherein the master and slave processors are executing in parallel the fixed length decoding and variable length decoding (col. 3, lines 7-12).

Re claims 11-13 and 18, Watanabe further discloses the variable decoding means detects completion of variable length coding of a current data block and start variable length coding of a subsequent data block (col. 8, lines 1-41; fig. 12); wherein the each of signal processing devices performs both the variable length and the fixed length decoding of a data allotted to it (col. 10, lines 45 through col. 11, lines 1-40).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-9, 14-16, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Watanabe (US 5,675,331).

Re claims 14-16, and 19, Watanabe discloses the decoders (4-6) in figures 3-5 to perform the variable and the fixed decoding of MPEG stream. Watanabe further discloses the operations in the decoders (4-6) would comprise an inverse quantizing means (IQ/IDCT, X5), an inverse transform means (X5), an image generating means (col. 15, lines 36-37), a motion compensation processing means (X6) for carrying out motion compensation processing based on at least one of the inverse transformed data blocks and the image data block to generate the reference

image(col. 15, lines 4-45). Watanabe would also teach the data blocks are macroblocks (fig. 12), and the transform means is a discrete cosine transform (DCT) to perform DCT coefficients (col. 15, lines 9-10).

Re claims 1-9, it is noted that Watanabe teaches the decoders (4-6) for decoding the variable and the fixed length codes, where the encoded data blocks are encoded by the variable and the fixed length coders as suggested by Watanabe (col. 5, lines 48-50, 59-60), and the encoding process is a reversible process of the decoding. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use the suggestion of Watanabe for constructing the encoders in the same arrangement as claimed for the same purpose of encoding a input signal in parallel of the variable and the fixed length codes of a data block to provided a quality encoded image to the decoders. Doing so would implement the encoder which allows the processing of the next code to be changed in accordance with a code by adopting a simple and reasonable circuit configuration where codes to be encoded comprise variable length codes mixed with fixed length codes, and possible to reduce size of the circuit.

Conclusion

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after

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the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Contact Information

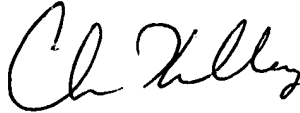
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tung T. Vo whose telephone number is (703) 308-5874. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30AM-4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chris Kelley can be reached on (703) 305-4856. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-6306 for regular communications and (703) 308-6306 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700.

Tung T. Vo
Examiner
Art Unit 2613

T. Vo
June 21, 2001


CHRIS KELLEY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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